these. We do not know the actual figure of the loans to Allies and Dominions during the war period, because they are not included in the weekly financial statements. The amount that we borrow abroad is set out week by week—at least, that is believed to be the meaning of the cryptic item " Other Debt"— but the amount that we lend to Allies and Dominions is hidden away in the Supply Services or somewhere, and we only get occasional information about it from the Chancellor in the course of his speeches on the Budget or on Votes of Credit. In his last Vote of Credit speech, on November 12, 1918, Mr Bonar Law gave the chief items of the loans to Allies, and a very interesting list it was. The totals up to October 19, 1918, were £1465 millions to Allies and if2i8f millions to Dominions. The Allies were indebted to us as follows:—Russia, ^568 millions ; France, £425 millions ; Italy, £345 millions ; smaller States, *£izi* millions.*

Some of these debts may be written off at once, and that cheerfully, seeing that they have been lent brothers-in-arms who have been hit much harder than we have by the war, and had nothing like our financial strength. The question is, what figure ought we to put on this asset in deducting it from gross war expenditure in order to arrive at a guess at the real cost ? We take our loans to Dominions, of course, as good to the last penny. Mr Bonar Law,

in his Budget speech last April, took our loans to Allies at half their face value. Strict book-keeping would probably demand a lower figure than 50 per

* Parliamentary Debates* Vol. no, Ho. 114, p. 2560,